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INVESTIGATION OF PHOTOACOUSTOREFRACTIVE EFFECT IN LINRO3 SAW DE--ETC(U)
AUG 81 A LINZ, H P. JENSSEN

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7. AUTHOR(a)	S. CONTRAC
Dr. Arthur Linz and Dr. Hans P. Jer	nssen DAAG29-8
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS	10. PROGRA
Crystal Physics & Optical Electronics Labor Massachusetts Inst. of Technology, Cambridg 021	ratory ge, MA 139
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS	12. REPORT
U. S. Army Research Office	08-
Post Office Box 12211	13. NUMBER
Post Office Box 12211 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709	three

READ INSTRUC REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

BEFORE COMPLETING FORM T'S CATALOG NUMBER

REPORT & PERIOD COVERES

EPORT 02/06/80--02/05/91 ING ORG. REPORT NUMBER

T OR GRANT NUMBER(+)

hew 80-C-0074

M ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK WORK UNIT NUMBERS

DATE -14-81

OF PAGES

three (3)

15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report)

Unclassified

154, DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE

16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report)

SECUNITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE PEOP BOTO BOTO

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS(II dillerent from Controlling Office)

SEP 1 1981

17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the ebetract entered in Block 20, If different from Report)

NA

The view, opinions, and/or findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy, or decision, unless so designated by other documentation.

19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identity by block number)

Lithium niobate photoelectric emission

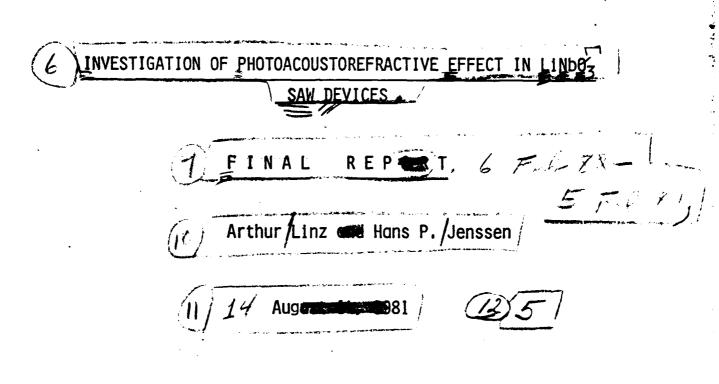
20. ABSTRACT (Cauchus an reverse olds if necessary and identity by block number)

Multiphoton photoelectric emission from Lithium niobate was investigated. At the wavelengths of interest, 1060 nm and 530  $nm_{\rm A}$  thermionic emission occurs at energy density of about  $1 \text{ J/cm}^2$ .

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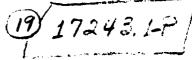
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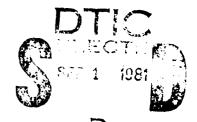
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### Final Report

# Investigation of Photoacoustorefractive Effect in LiNbO, SAW Devices.

## 1. Introduction

Real time processing advanced radar system data has placed extensive requirements on the analog information processing technologies that are now utilized. Applications have developed that require real time processing with large dynamic range together with large bandwidth. A relatively new and exciting approach to carry such processing out is based on acoustooptic technology. Surface Acoustic Wave (SAW) technology has been combined with integrated optics (IO) technology to obtain real-time correlation, convolution, and Fourier transform devices. The present status of this technology has shown that additional investigation of some of the materials properties is needed to advance the device capabilities.

One particular area of interaction utilizes the imprints of high frequency rf signatures in a Surface Acoustic Wave (SAW) device when a high intensity laser pulse interacts with the SAW created by the rf signal. An acoustophotorefractive effect occurs, wherein areas of a lithium niobate (LiNbO<sub>3</sub>) crystal are irradiated by intense laser illumination and develop semi-permanent index of refraction changes ( $\delta$ n). The effect has been used to implement a memory correlator. Both short duration, high intensity green (532 nm) laser light and near IR (1060-nm) laser light have been utilized to create such an effect.

One possible cause proposed for the changes in the refractive index is photoemission of electrons. The fields set up by the Surface Acoustic Wave would modulate the emission. The influence of spontaneous polarization on the photoelectric effect has previously been reported. 2

Both the (single photon) photo-emission threshold and photoemmisive yield were found to be quite different for the two ends of a single-domain

 ${\rm CiNb0_3}$  crystal. The purpose of this work was then to study the multiphoton emission of electrons from  ${\rm LiNb0_3}$  both in order to obtain information about the photoemissive yield as a function of photon energy and any influence of the spontaneous polarization.

### 2. Experimental Methods and Results.

The experimental work performed consisted of: 1. Design and assembly of a vacuum chamber with access window for a laser beam to enter and electrical feedthroughs for photoelectron detection. 2. Experiments using the vacuum chamber and a tuneable pulsed dye laser to study photoemission.

3. A Q-switched Nd:BEL laser was constructed to be used as a 1 µm source for photoemission.

Actual LiNbO $_3$  samples that had been used in the SAW device experiments at Harry Diamond Laboratories, were used in our investigation. In the HDL experiments a Q-switched Nd:YAG laser with output of  $\sim 0.5 J$  and 5 ns pulse duration was used to radiate about 1 cm $^2$  area. The output of our dye laser is about 100  $\mu J$  in 10 ns. Thus to obtain a similar power density (100 MW/cm $^2$ ) we focussed the beam down to approximately 100  $\mu m$  beam diameter. The power density was adjusted by changing the focussing of the beam.

With 2.5 eV photons we found a signal threshold near 100 MW/cm $^2$  and a very strong intensity dependence above 100 MW/cm $^2$ . This is characteristic of thermionic emission and indeed we found that both positive and negative charges were emitted. Attempts to increase the detection sensitivity were not successful. It was found that the microchannel plate collector we used , with a gain of  $\sim 10^4$ , had too high capacitance to resolve the 1 ns to 10 ns pulse. An attempt to use just a collector plate and subsequent amplifier

also failed to due to insufficient gain-pandwidth product. In order to proceed it was decided that an electron multiplier tube with a gain of  $\sim 10^8$  should be used. However, insufficient funds prevented purchase of this.

Since the original experiments at H.D.L. had been performed with a Nd:YAG laser at 1.06  $\mu m$ , we had planned to also study the photoemission at this wavelength. A Nd:BEL laser is constructed for this purpose. A flowing dye passive Q-switch was used. The operating characterisitics of this laser are: wavelength  $\lambda = 1.07~\mu m$ , output energy E = 50 mJ, pulse duration  $T_p \leq 50$  ns, pulse repetition rate P.P.R. = 0.5 sec<sup>-1</sup>.

#### 3. Conclusion.

This research program yielded no new results regarding multiphoton photoelectric emission from lithium niobate. However, at the energy and power leves originally used at Harry Diamond Laboratories, the threshold for thermionic emission might have been exceeded. The very similar results that they have observed at the two wavelengths,  $\lambda \approx 1060~\mu m$  and  $\lambda = 530~nm$ , would be more in accordance with photon energy independent thermionic emission than photoelectric emission.

#### 4. References

- 1. John N. Lee et al, Ferroelectrics, 1980, <u>27</u>, pp. 139-142.
- 2. A. A. Akhayan et al, Sov. Phys. Solid State 20 (5), May 1978, p.912.